

Miller's House & Mill.
Millsbach, Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-151

HABS
PA
38-MILB
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Philadelphia
No.1. Pennsylvania

Historic American Buildings Survey, (Fed.)
Joseph P. Sims, District Officer
2008 Architect's Building, Philadelphia
Pennsylvania

MILLER HOUSE AND MILL
(MUELLER HOUSE, ILLIG'S MILL)

Address: Newmanstown-Kleinfeltersville Road at intersection
with Stricklerstown Road, Millbach, Lebanon County,
Pennsylvania

An addendum to
Miller's House and Mill
(Mueller House, Illig's Mill)
Millbach, Pennsylvania
in HABS Catalog Supplement (1959)

Present Occupant: Owner

Present Use: Residence.

Brief Statement This is one of the finest and best known examples
of Significance: of Pennsylvania-German architecture.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History: A datestone over the south entrance says: "Jerg Muler/Maria. Catr. M/ 1752" which is a Rhineland dialect form of Georg Muller and Maria Caterina Muller /Downs/. The mill was at one time operated by E. R. Illig, and part of the structure is thought to have been built by him /Fegley/. The interiors of two rooms were removed in 1926 and are installed in Philadelphia Museum of Art, Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, Penna.

B. Sources of information : G. Edwin Brumbaugh "Colonial Architecture of the Pennsylvania Germans," Pennsylvania German Society Proceedings and Papers 1930, Vol. XLI (Published by the Society, 1933), Part II, plates 51, 96.

Harold E. Dickson, A Hundred Pennsylvania Buildings (State College, Pennsylvania: Bald Eagle Press, 1954), No. 231

Joseph Downs, The House of the Miller at Millbach (Philadelphia: Pennsylvania Museum of Art, 1929), includes measured drawings.

H. Winslow Fegley, Among Some of the Older Mills in Eastern Pennsylvania (Norristown, Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania German Society, 1930).

Hugh Morrison, Early American Architecture; From the First Colonial Settlements to the National Period (New York: Oxford University Press, 1952), pp. 542-543, figs. 460-462. Reproduces plans and photographs.

Thomas Tillston Johnston, The Lovellings of Colonial America (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1930), pp. 152-156, 160-161. Reproduces plans and photographs.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The Miller house consists of a large two-and-a-half-story stone house with a gambrel roof with flared eaves and a mill attached to the house at a right angle, forming an L-shaped structure. The house with its "piled up" gambrel, wide proportions, and small windows has a decidedly massive, Pennsylvania-German character.

Although there has been some modernization of the interior, the exterior retains its original aspect except for the loss of a pent roof between the first and second floor windows, and the replacement of the original sash by 19th-century, two-paned sash.

The fabric is in good condition, although some of the exterior woodwork needs restoring and painting, and the roof appears to be in need of re-shingling.

There is a porch on the south end of the mill and one at the north, both apparently added later, probably in the late 19th century. One large central chimney emerges near the middle of the roof ridge.

There is a very handsome paneled Dutch door on the ground floor of the mill. Each section of the door contains two panels, which have their edges shaped by a stepped border.

The small windows are emphasized by segmental arches of red sandstone. The shutters, some of which are missing, are solid with two panels each.

The large gambrel roof is the most outstanding feature of the house. At the base of each of the slopes there is a kick or bell-cast. Two pent eaves cross the gable ends and connect these kicks. The roof is covered with wood shingles.

The interior has been considerably altered by the removal of some interior woodwork and the addition of partition walls. Some of the interior woodwork is original, and is of the heavy proportions characteristic of the German Renaissance.

The mill and the house are located at the intersection of two roads, and near the stream which supplied the mill with its power. The house is very near the road, and surrounded by large trees. The entrance court formed by the L of the house and mill is a very charming space, treated like a small garden with box lined walks and flowers. The barns and spring house are located across the road.

Prepared by Drury B. Alexander
University of Pennsylvania
August 1958.